

**REMARKS**

Entry of the above amendments prior to consideration on the merits is respectfully requested.

Support for the additional claims is as follows.

The present application concerns an antimicrobial composition comprising an antimicrobial effective amount of a mixture of two, three or more straight-chain 1,2-alkanediols, the chain lengths of which (i) are different and (ii) in each case are in the range of 5 to 10 C atoms. The mixture of 1,2-hexanediol and 1,2-octanediol are one of the most preferred mixtures of alkanediols.

Support for claim 11 can be found in paragraph [00045] of the specification wherein it is disclosed that it is advantageous to use the synergistic mixtures of 1,2-alkanediols with further preservatives. Further support can be found in Example 3 and the associated text.

Claim 12 lists the preservatives from paragraph [00045] of the specification.

Claims 13, 14 and 15 recite preservatives used in the Examples (Example 3 and any example using Euxyl K400).

Further, claims 15-16 list preservatives recited in paragraph [00045] of the specification.

Claim 17 finds support in claim 4 as well as paragraphs [00022], [00100], [00107] and [00129] of the specification.

Support for claim 18 is the same as for claim 11.

Claim 19 finds support in paragraph [00045] of the specification.

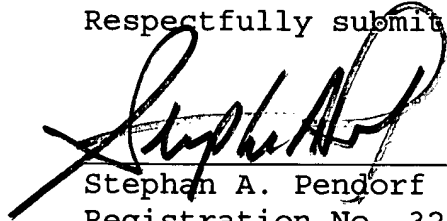
U.S. Application No.: 10/502,132  
SUPPLEMENTAL PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Attorney Docket: 3968.120

Care has been taken to ensure that no new matter has been added.

Entry and favorable consideration are requested.

Respectfully submitted,

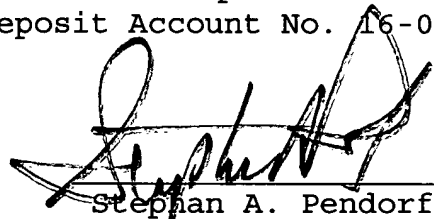
  
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May 11, 2005

**CERTIFICATION OF MAILING AND AUTHORIZATION TO CHARGE**

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing SUPPLEMENTAL PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT for U.S. Application No.: 10/502,132 filed July 20, 2004, was deposited in first class U.S. mail, postage prepaid, addressed: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on May 11, 2005.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees, which may be required at any time during the prosecution of this application without specific authorization, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 16-0877.

  
Stephan A. Pendorf